



PREPARATION FOR AND DURING THE WINTER SEASON

Bill Rogers

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A Suggested Check-Off / Reminder List

Did you store your sleeping bag and tent fluffed up and loose?	Have you marked important TATC and ATC dates on your calendar? Have you told your spouse?
Did you store your self-inflating sleeping pad unrolled, with the valve open?	Will you join fellow club members on an Appalachian Trail or local trail maintenance day or weekend this or next year?
Is your water filter protected from growing green stuff inside the nice warm house, inside the nice dark filter cartridge where it is warm and damp?	Have you made plans to join a Konnarock Crew ?
Is your stove maintenance free and ready for use in the spring? Are the gaskets/o-rings in good shape and lubricated?	Are you going to volunteer to be on a TATC committee?
Are your boots cleaned (inside and outside), and water-proofed, and ready to slip on at a moment's notice?	Do you still fit your clothes, or do you have to take steps to return to that hiking / backpacking figure?
Do you have a shopping list for things you need, and another list of things that you need to repair?	Are you actually going to get in shape this year, or are you just thinking about it in front of the telly?
Do you have a good supply of waterproof matches?	Are you going to write and submit a newsletter article?
Is your stove fuel put away where it is safe, and where fumes cannot escape to a furnace or water heater pilot light?	Have you visited the TATC web site? www.tidewateratc.org .
Has the old liquid stove fuel been removed for the winter?	Have you visited the ATC web site? www.appalachiantrail.org .
Have you checked your supply of compressed gas canisters for your stove?	Have you visited the LNT web site? www.lnt.org
Have you cleaned, and put a protective coat of oil on each of your tools?	Have you made up your Christmas wish list? Can you afford it?
Have you coated wooden tool handles with neetsfoot oil?	Have you restocked desired freeze dried meals?
Have you sharpened that dull swing blade, axe, Pulaski, cutter mattock, and penknife?	Are you experimenting with new meals using your backpacking stove and cook kit in the back yard?
Have you put a drop of oil on penknife hinge points, and lopper and pruner (snippers) swivel points, and on Coleman™-type stove and lantern leather pump gaskets?	Are you introducing friends to backpacking or trail maintenance?
Will you, and your equipment, be ready to go at the first hint that you are house-bound, and catching claustrophobia?	Are your stove, candle lantern, other lantern, fuels, lantern mantles, waterproof matches, and flashlights and extra batteries, ready and in working condition in case of a winter storm power outage!?
Have you reviewed some basic or advanced first aid steps, or CPR, or Wilderness First Aid that could be needed on a day or weekend trip?	Have you removed batteries from electronic / electric things that will not be used during the winter?
If you use them, will you replace your water treatment tablets with fresh ones for the new year?	Do you have spare batteries for electronic / electric things that might be needed in case of a winter power outage?
Are you supporting the Appalachian Trail with a membership in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy?	Have you sent in your suggestions to be added to this list?
Are you planning your next year's trips; do you have adequate maps or guidebooks to meet your plans?	The days will be getting longer - are you ready?????
Are you going to lead a club activity or two next year?	No, not everyone goes inactive over the winter. But, if you do, I've hopefully given you some things upon which to cogitate